



State of Tennessee

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

By Harper, Barnes, Berke, Burks, Haynes, Henry, Marrero

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Victoria Essence Rose Dunlap upon being drafted by the WNBA's Washington Mystics.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those athletes who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as true champions of whom we all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Essence Rose Dunlap is one such notable student who has proven herself to be the fiercest of competitors and, as such, deserving of the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dunlap, a 2011 graduate of the University of Kentucky (UK) and distinguished former member of the UK Wildcats women's basketball team, has been drafted by the Women's National Basketball Association's (WNBA) Washington Mystics; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Dunlap was born in Nashville on September 19, 1989, to King David Dunlap IV and Robin Shaw Dunlap, both alumni of Tennessee State University (TSU); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dunlap stems from exceptional athletic roots; her father played football at TSU and spent three seasons in the National Football League (NFL), her mother ran track at TSU, and her brother, King Dunlap V, is an offensive lineman for the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles; and

WHEREAS, Victoria attended Una Elementary School, Cameron and JFK Middle schools, and Brentwood Academy, from which she graduated in 2007; and

WHEREAS, during her exemplary high school athletic career, Ms. Dunlap, who stands at a towering 6'1", earned numerous honors as both a basketball player and member of the track team: she was named a two-time Tennessee Miss Basketball finalist, and she was the academy's all-time leading scorer and rebounder with 1,442 points and 984 rebounds; and

WHEREAS, she was named the Female Track Athlete of the Year by *The Tennessean* after winning the state pentathlon and high jump as a junior, and, at the end of her junior year, she helped lead her basketball squad to nineteen consecutive wins, culminating in the school's first-ever state title; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Dunlap continued her athletic career at UK, from which she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Science with a minor in Psychology in 2011; and

WHEREAS, during her estimable four-year career as an All-American member of the UK Wildcats women's basketball team, she became UK's number two all-time leading scorer and rebounder and the highest draft pick in the school's history; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dunlap was named the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Player of the Year by *The Associated Press* and was named the SEC Defensive Player of the Year by the league coaches; she ranked in the top half of eight SEC statistical categories, including leading the league in scoring, field-goal percentage, and steals per game; and

WHEREAS, she also ranked fourth in rebounds per game and fifth in blocks and free-throw shooting percentage, and she was the only player in the SEC to rank in the top five in scoring, rebounding, blocks, and steals; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Dunlap scored double figures in thirty-one of thirty-three games, including twenty-two consecutive games in her senior season; with nine double-doubles and twelve games with twenty or more points, she helped lead the seventeenth-ranked Wildcats to their second straight twenty-win season and second straight National Collegiate Athletic Association appearance for the first time since the 1982-83 team accomplished that feat; and

WHEREAS, she was the first player in the school's history to chart more than 100 assists, 100 blocks, and 300 steals in her career, and she was the second player with more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in a career; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Dunlap was named to the John R. Wooden Award Watch List and the State Farm Wade Trophy Watch List for 2010-11; she was named a State Farm/WBCA Coaches' All-American, the SEC Player of the Year, a USBWA All-American, an *Associated Press* All-American, a *Full Court Press* All-American, a NetScouts Basketball All-American, and a WBCA All-Region 3 for 2009-10; and

WHEREAS, she was also named to the All-SEC first team, the SEC All-Defensive team, the SEC All-Tournament team, and the Kansas City Regional All-Tournament team for 2009-10; she was named to the All-SEC second team by coaches and *The Associated Press* and the Preseason All-SEC second team for 2008-09; she was named the SEC Player of the Week in January 2009; she was named to the SEC All-Freshman team for 2007-08; and she was named a three-time SEC Freshman of the Week; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dunlap ended her illustrious Wildcat career ranking in the Top Ten on numerous career lists, including Number One in games played and Number Two in scoring, rebounding, blocks, steals, free-throws made, free-throws attempted, and double-doubles; and

WHEREAS, in April 2011, Victoria Dunlap was the eleventh overall selection in the 2011 WNBA Draft, chosen by the Washington Mystics in the first round at the ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dunlap epitomizes all that is good in today's most remarkable student athlete, as she has achieved a premier level of success in competition while exhibiting the highest degree of character in all aspects of life; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this phenomenal young woman not only made possible a championship collegiate athletic career, but also surely bode well for her success as a professional basketball player in the WNBA; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Victoria Dunlap for her dazzling athletic accomplishments of the highest order and for serving as an example of the raw talent, pure passion, and outstanding determination that Tennessee's exceptional youth exude; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Victoria Essence Rose Dunlap upon being drafted by the WNBA's Washington Mystics, applaud her for her spectacular athletic achievements, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all her future endeavors as a professional basketball player.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

ADOPTED: May 19, 2011



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE